

Introduction to Probability and Statistics

Slides 3 – Chapter 3

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Fall Semester 2008

Chapter 3

Discrete Random Variables *and* Probability Distributions

Chapter Outlines

3.1 Random Variable

3.2 Probability Distribution for Discrete Random Variables

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3.5 Hypergeometric & Negative Distributions

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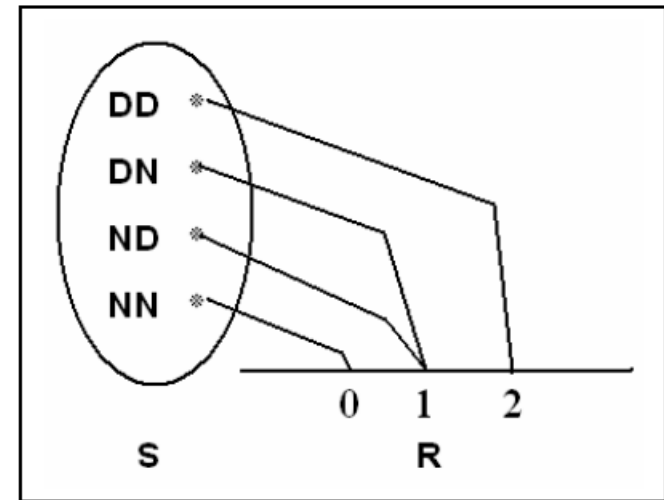
3.1 Random Variables

In a statistical experiment, it is often very important to allocate numerical values to the outcomes.

Example:

- **Experiment:** testing two components
(D=defective, N=non-defective)
- **Sample space:** $S = \{DD, DN, ND, NN\}$
- Let X = number of defective components.
- Assigned numerical values to the outcomes are:

Sample point (Outcome)	Assigned Numerical Value (x)
DD	2
DN	1
ND	1
NN	0



Notice that, the set of all possible values of the variable X is $\{0, 1, 2\}$.

Random Variable

For a given sample space S of some experiment, a *random variable* is any rule (function) that associates a real number with each outcome in S .

(i.e., $X : S \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$.)

Notation: " X " denotes the random variable .

" x " denotes a particular value of the random variable X .

Bernoulli Random Variable

Any random variable whose only possible values are 0 and 1 is called a *Bernoulli random variable*.

Types of Random Variables:

- A random variable X is called **a discrete random variable** if its set of possible values is countable, i.e., $x \in \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$
- A random variable X is called **a continuous random variable** if it can take values on a continuous scale, i.e., $x \in \{x: a < x < b; a, b \in R\}$

In most practical problems:

- A **discrete random** variable represents count data, such as the number of defectives in a sample of k items.
- A **continuous random** variable represents measured data, such as height.

3.2 Probability Distributions for Discrete Random Variables

Probability Distribution

The *probability distribution* or *probability mass function* (*pmf*) of a discrete rv X is defined for every number x by

$$p(x) = P(\text{all } s \in S : X(s) = x) = P(X = x)$$

The probability mass function, $p(x)$, of a discrete random variable X satisfies the following:

- 1) $p(x) = P(X = x) \geq 0.$
- 2) $\sum_{\text{all } x} p(x) = 1.$

Note:

$$P(A) = \sum_{\text{all } x \in A} p(x) = \sum_{\text{all } x \in A} P(X = x).$$

Parameter of a Probability Distribution

- Suppose that $p(x)$ depends on a **quantity** that can be assigned any one of a number of possible values, each with different value determining a different probability distribution.
- Such a quantity is called a *parameter of the distribution*.
- The collection of all distributions for all different parameters is called a *family* of distributions.

Example: For $0 < a < 1$,

$$p(x; a) = \begin{cases} 1 - a & \text{if } x = 0 \\ a & \text{if } x = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Each choice of a yields a different pmf.

Cumulative Distribution Function

The cumulative distribution function (cdf) $F(x)$ of a discrete rv variable X with pmf $p(x)$ is defined by

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \sum_{y: y \leq x} p(y).$$

For any number x , $F(x)$ is the probability that the observed value of X will be at most x .

Proposition

For any two numbers a and b with $a \leq b$

$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = F(b) - F(a-)$$

“ $a-$ ” represents the largest possible X value that is strictly less than a .

Note: For integers

$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = F(b) - F(a - 1)$$

Probability Distribution for the Random Variable X

A probability distribution for a random variable X :

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	4	6
$P(X=x)$	0.13	0.16	0.17	0.20	0.16	0.11	0.07

Find:

1) $F(x)$

2) $P(X > 0) = 1 - P(X \leq 0) = 1 - F(0) = 1 - 0.66 = 0.34$

3) $P(-2 \leq X \leq 1) = P(-2 \leq X \leq 1) = F(1) - F(-2-) = F(1) - F(-3) = 0.69$

4) $P(-2 \leq X < 1) = P(-2 \leq X < 1) = F(1-) - F(-2-) = F(0) - F(-3) = 0.53$

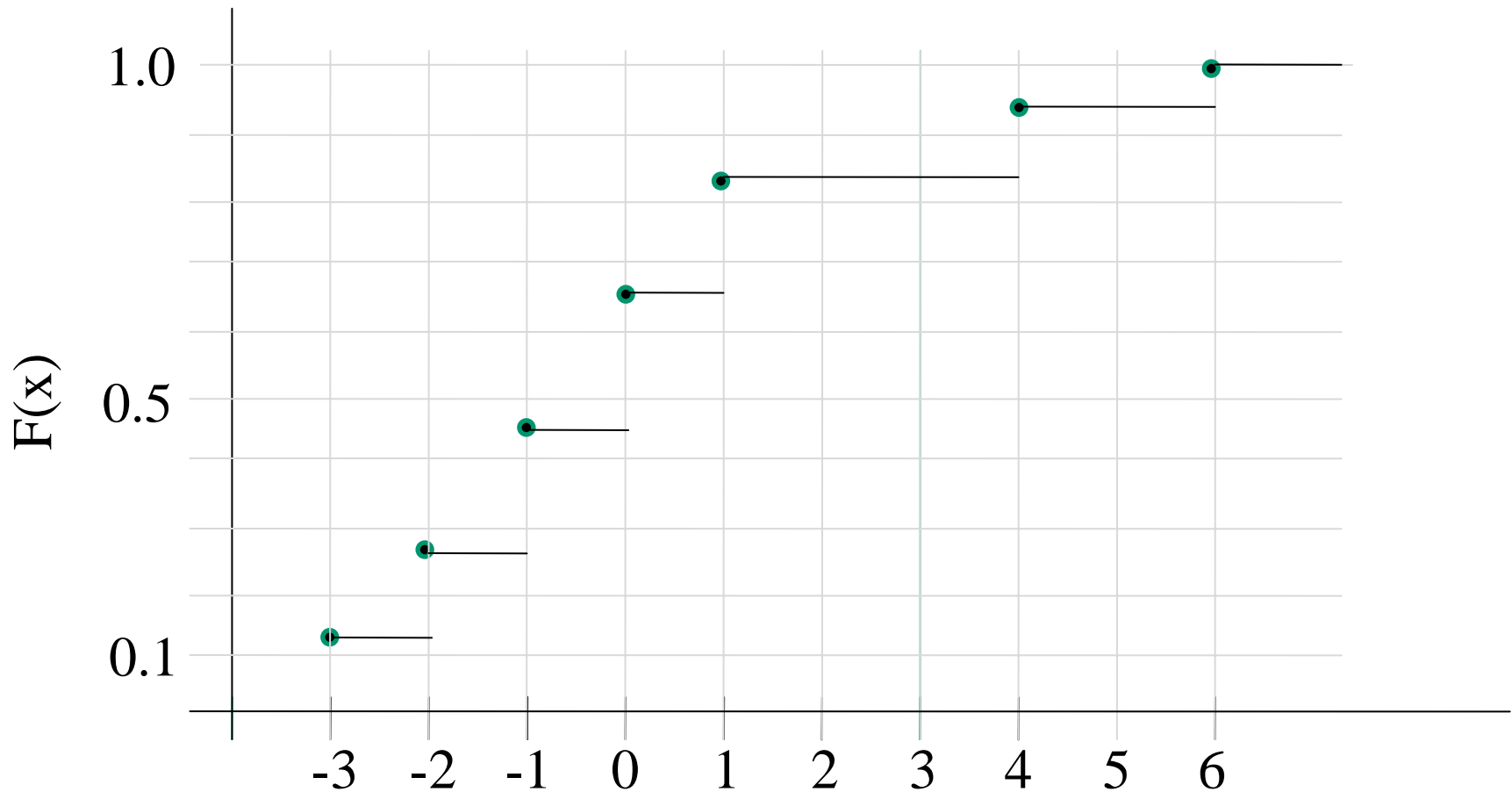
5) $P(-2 < X \leq 1) = P(-2 < X \leq 1) = F(1) - F(-2) = F(1) - F(-2) = 0.53$

6) $P(-3 < X < 1) = P(-3 < X < 1) = F(1-) - F(-2) = F(0) - F(-2) = 0.37$

1) $F(x)$

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	4	6
$F(x)$	0.13	0.29	0.46	0.66	0.82	0.93	1.00

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	4	6
F(x)	0.13	0.29	0.46	0.66	0.82	0.93	1.00



x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	4	6
P(X=x)	0.13	0.16	0.17	0.20	0.16	0.11	0.07

pmf:

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	4	6
P(X=x)	0.13	0.16	0.17	0.20	0.16	0.11	0.07

CDF:

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	4	6
F(x)	0.13	0.29	0.46	0.66	0.82	0.93	1.00

The CDF can be written as

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < -3 \\ 0.13 & \text{if } -3 \leq x < -2 \\ 0.29 & \text{if } -2 \leq x < -1 \\ 0.46 & \text{if } -1 \leq x < 0 \\ 0.66 & \text{if } 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 0.82 & \text{if } 1 \leq x < 4 \\ 0.93 & \text{if } 4 \leq x < 6 \\ 1.00 & \text{if } 6 \leq x \end{cases}$$

Example.

Tossing a non-balance coin 2 times independently.

Sample space: $S=\{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$.

Suppose $P(H) = \frac{1}{2} P(T) \Rightarrow P(H) = \frac{1}{3}$ and $P(T) = \frac{2}{3}$.

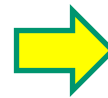
Let X = number of heads

Sample point	Value of X (x)	Probability
HH	2	$P(HH) = P(H) P(H) = \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{9}$
HT	1	$P(HT) = P(H) P(T) = \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{2}{9}$
TH	1	$P(TH) = P(H) P(T) = \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{2}{9}$
TT	0	$P(TT) = P(T) P(T) = \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{9}$

The possible values of X are: 0, 1, and 2.

X is a discrete random variable.

$(X=x)$	$p(x) = P(X=x)$
$(X=0)=\{TT\}$	$\frac{4}{9}$
$(X=1)=\{HT, TH\}$	$\frac{2}{9} + \frac{2}{9} = \frac{4}{9}$
$(X=2)=\{HH\}$	$\frac{1}{9}$



Probability distribution of the X

X	0	1	2	Total
$P(X=x)$	$\frac{4}{9}$	$\frac{4}{9}$	$\frac{1}{9}$	1.0

$$P(X < 1) = P(X=0) = 4/9$$

$$= F(1-) = F(0) = 4/9$$

$$P(X \leq 1) = P(X=0) + P(X=1) = 4/9 + 4/9 = 8/9$$

$$= F(1) = 8/9$$

$$P(X \geq 0.5) = P(X=1) + P(X=2) = 4/9 + 1/9 = 5/9$$

$$= 1 - F(0.5-) = 1 - F(0) = 1 - 4/9 = 5/9$$

$$P(X > 8) = P(\varphi) = 0$$

$$= 1 - F(8) = 1 - 1 = 0$$

$$P(X < 10) = P(X=0) + P(X=1) + P(X=2) = P(S) = 1$$

$$= F(10) = 1$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 4/9 & \text{if } 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 8/9 & \text{if } 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 1 & \text{if } 2 \leq x \end{cases}$$



F(x)			
X	0	1	2
F(x)	4/9	8/9	9/9

Example :

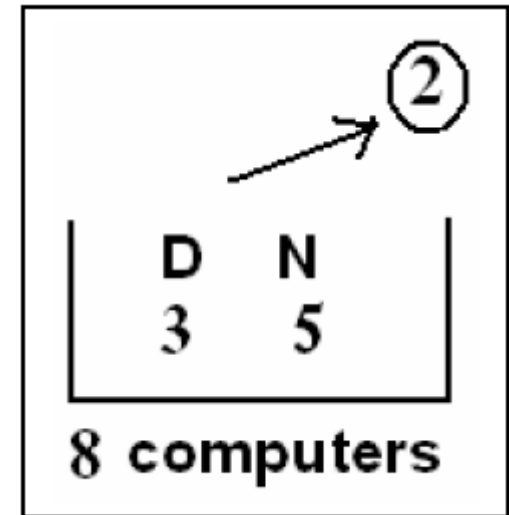
A shipment of **8** similar microcomputers to a retail outlet contains **3** that are defective and **5** are non-defective. If a school makes a random purchase of **2** of these computers, *find the probability distribution of the number of defectives* .

We need to find the probability distribution of the random variable:
 X = the number of defective computers purchased.

Experiment: selecting 2 computers at random out of 8

$$N(S) = \binom{8}{2} \text{ equally likely outcomes}$$

The possible values of X are: $x = 0, 1, 2$.



$$N(X=0)=\{0D \text{ and } 2N\} = \binom{3}{0} \times \binom{5}{2}$$

$$N(X=1)= \{1D \text{ and } 1N\} = \binom{3}{1} \times \binom{5}{1}$$

$$N(X=2)=\{2D \text{ and } 1N\} = \binom{3}{2} \times \binom{5}{0}$$

$$P(X=0)= \frac{\binom{3}{0} \times \binom{5}{2}}{\binom{8}{2}} = \frac{10}{28}$$

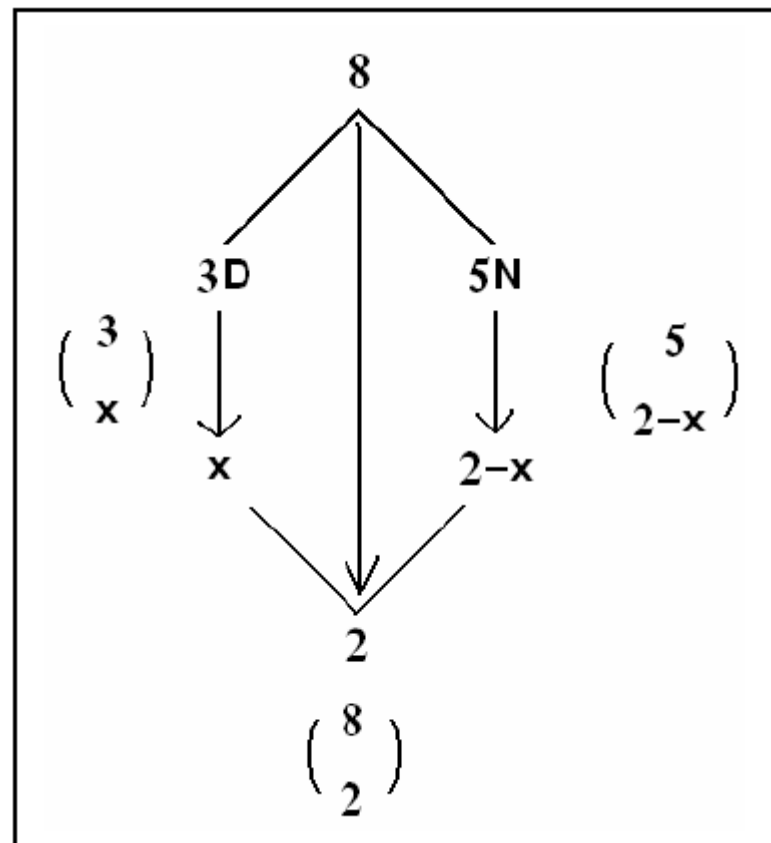
$$P(X=1)= \frac{\binom{3}{1} \times \binom{5}{1}}{\binom{8}{2}} = \frac{15}{28}$$

$$P(X=2)= \frac{\binom{3}{2} \times \binom{5}{0}}{\binom{8}{2}} = \frac{3}{28}$$

The probability distribution of X

x	0	1	2	Total
$p(x) = P(X=x)$	$\frac{10}{28}$	$\frac{15}{28}$	$\frac{3}{28}$	1.00

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\binom{3}{x} \times \binom{5}{2-x}}{\binom{8}{2}}, & x=0,1,2. \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



Hypergeometric Distribution

3.3 Expected Values of Discrete Random Variables

The Expected Value of X

Let X be a discrete rv with set of possible values D and *pmf* $p(x)$. The expected value or mean value of X , denoted $E(X)$ or μ_X or μ , is

$$E(X) = \mu_X = \sum_{x \in D} x \cdot p(x).$$

Example: Use the data below to find out the expected number of the number of credit cards that a student will possess.

$X = \# \text{ credit cards}$

x	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
p(x)	0.08	0.28	0.38	0.16	0.06	0.03	0.01

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= x_1 p_1 + x_2 p_2 + \dots + x_l p_l \\ &= 0(0.08) + 1(0.28) + 2(0.38) + 3(0.16) + 4(0.06) + 5(0.03) + 6(0.01) \\ &= 1.97 \approx 2 \text{ credit cards} \end{aligned}$$

The Expected Value of a Function

If the rv X has the set of possible values D and pmf $p(x)$, then the expected value of any function $h(x)$, denoted $E[h(X)]$ or $(\mu_{h(X)})$ is

$$E[h(X)] = \mu_{h(X)} = \sum_{x \in D} h(x) \cdot p(x).$$

Rules of the Expected Value

$$E[aX + b] = a \cdot E(X) + b$$

- 1) For any constant a , $E[aX] = a \cdot E(X)$
- 2) For any constant b , $E[X + b] = E(X) + b$

The Variance and Standard Deviation

Let X have pmf $p(x)$, and expected value μ . Then the **variance** of X , denoted $V(X)$ (or σ_X^2 or σ^2), is

$$V(X) = E[(X - \mu)^2] = \sum_{x \in D} (x - \mu)^2 \cdot p(x).$$

The **standard deviation** (SD) of X is

$$\sigma_X = \sqrt{\sigma_X^2}$$

Example: The quiz scores for a particular student are given below:

22, 25, 20, 18, 12, 20, 24, 20, 20, 25, 24, 25, 18


Compute the variance and standard deviation.

Solution: Let X be the quiz score.

	Value (X)	12	18	20	22	24	25
	Frequency	1	2	4	1	2	3
$p(x) \longrightarrow$	Probability	0.08	0.15	0.31	0.08	0.15	0.23

$$\mu = \sum_{x \in D} x \cdot p(x) = 21$$

$$\begin{aligned} V(X) &= (x_1 - \mu)^2 p_1 + (x_1 - \mu)^2 p_1 + \dots + (x_n - \mu)^2 p_n \\ &= (12 - 21)^2 0.08 + (18 - 21)^2 0.15 + (20 - 21)^2 0.31 + \\ &\quad (22 - 21)^2 0.08 + (24 - 21)^2 0.15 + (25 - 21)^2 0.23 = 13.25 \end{aligned}$$


$$\sigma = \sqrt{V(X)} = \sqrt{13.25} \approx 3.64$$

Shortcut Formula for Variance

$$\begin{aligned} V(X) = \sigma^2 &= \left[\sum_D x^2 \cdot p(x) \right] - \mu^2 \\ &= E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 \end{aligned}$$

Rules of Variance

$$V(aX + b) = \sigma_{aX+b}^2 = a^2 \cdot \sigma_X^2$$

$$\text{and } \sigma_{aX+b} = |a| \cdot \sigma_X$$

This leads to the following:

1. $\sigma_{aX}^2 = a^2 \cdot \sigma_X^2, \sigma_{aX} = |a| \cdot \sigma_X$
2. $\sigma_{X+b}^2 = \sigma_X^2$

3.4 The Binomial Probability Distribution

Binomial Experiment

An experiment for which the following four conditions are satisfied is called a *binomial experiment*.

1. The experiment consists of a sequence of n trials, where n is fixed in advance of the experiment.
2. The trials are identical, and each trial can result in one of the same two possible outcomes, which are denoted by success (S) or failure (F).
3. The trials are independent
4. The probability of success is constant from trial to trial: denoted by p .

Binomial Random Variable

Given a binomial experiment consisting of n trials, *the binomial random variable* X associated with this experiment is defined as $X = \text{the number of } S\text{'s among } n \text{ trials.}$

Notation for the pmf of a Binomial rv

Because the pmf of a binomial rv X depends on the two parameters n and p , we denote the pmf by $b(x;n,p)$.

Computation of a Binomial pmf

$$b(x;n,p) = \begin{cases} \binom{n}{p} p^x (1-p)^{n-x} & x = 0, 1, \dots, n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The expected value and Variance of a Binomial distribution

If $X \sim b(x;n,p)$  (1) $E(X) = n p$ (2) $V(X) = n p (1-p)$

Example: If the probability of a student successfully passing this course (C or better) is 0.82, find the probability that given 8 students

a. **all 8 pass.**

$$P(X = 8) = b(8;8,0.82) = \binom{8}{8} (0.82)^8 (1-0.82)^{8-8} \approx 0.2044$$

b. **none pass.**

$$P(X = 0) = b(0;8,0.82) = \binom{8}{0} (0.82)^0 (1-0.82)^{8-0} \approx 0.0000011$$

c. **at least 6 pass.**

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \geq 6) &= b(6;8,0.82) + b(7;8,0.82) + b(8;8,0.82) \\ &= \binom{8}{6} (0.82)^6 (1-0.82)^{8-6} + \binom{8}{7} (0.82)^7 (1-0.82)^{8-7} \\ &\quad + \binom{8}{8} (0.82)^8 (1-0.82)^{8-8} \approx 0.8392 \end{aligned}$$

d. The expected number of students passed the course.

$$E(X) = n p = 8 (0.82) = 6.56 \approx 7 \text{ students}$$

e. The variance.

$$\begin{aligned} V(X) &= n p (1 - p) \\ &= 8 (0.82) (1 - 0.82) = 8 (0.82) (0.18) \\ &= 1.1808 \end{aligned}$$

3.5 Hypergeometric and Negative Binomial Distributions

The Hypergeometric Distribution

The three assumptions that lead to a *hypergeometric distribution*:

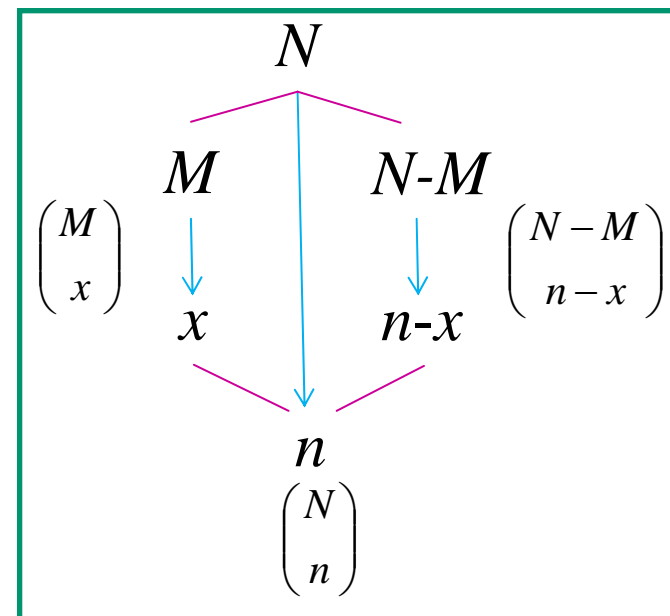
1. The population or set to be sampled consists of N individuals, objects, or elements (a finite population).
2. Each individual can be characterized as a success (S) or failure (F), and there are M successes in the population.
3. A sample of n individuals is selected without replacement in such a way that each subset of size n is equally likely to be chosen.

If X is the number of S 's in a completely random sample of size n drawn from a population consisting of M S 's and $(N - M)$ F 's, then the probability distribution of X will be called the *hypergeometric distribution*. [$h(n, M, N)$]

Computation of a Hypergeometric distribution

$$P(X = x) = h(x; n, M, N) = \frac{\binom{M}{x} \binom{N-M}{n-x}}{\binom{N}{n}},$$

$$\max(0, n - N + M) \leq x \leq \min(n, M)$$



The expected value and Variance of a Hypergeometric distribution

If $X \sim h(n, M, N)$ 

$$(1) E(X) = n \frac{M}{N} \quad (2) V(X) = \left(\frac{N-n}{N-1} \right) \cdot n \cdot \frac{M}{N} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{M}{N} \right)$$

Example:

Lots of 40 components each are called acceptable if they contain no more than 3 defectives. The procedure for sampling the lot is to select 5 components at random (without replacement) and to reject the lot if a defective is found. What is the probability that exactly one defective is found in the sample if there are 3 defectives in the entire lot.

Solution:

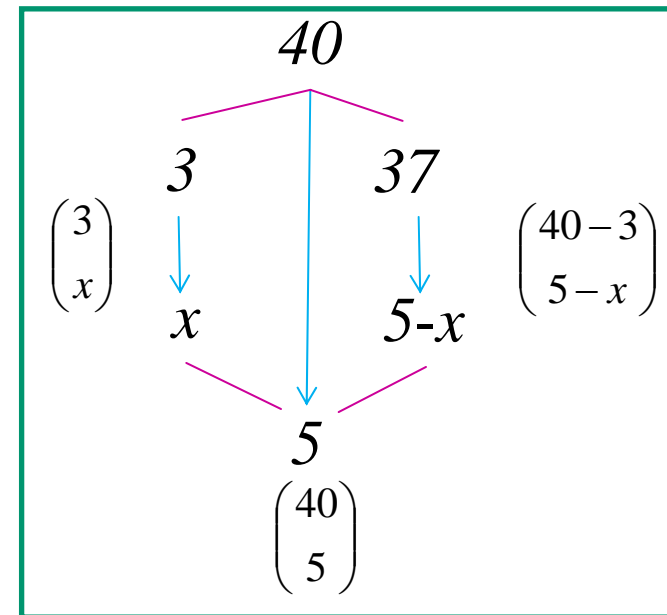
Let X = number of defectives in the sample.

$$X \sim h(n, M, N) \equiv h(5, 3, 40)$$

$$N = 40, M = 3, n = 5.$$

$$P(X = x) = \frac{\binom{3}{x} \binom{37}{5-x}}{\binom{40}{5}}, \quad x = 0, 1, 2, 3$$

$$\max(0, 5 - 37) = 0 \leq x \leq \min(5, 3) = 3$$



The probability that exactly one defective is found in the sample is

$$P(X=1) = \frac{\binom{3}{1} \times \binom{37}{5-1}}{\binom{40}{5}} = \frac{\binom{3}{1} \times \binom{37}{4}}{\binom{40}{5}} = 0.3011$$

Example:

In the previous example, find the expected value and the variance of the number of defectives in the sample.

Solution:

$$(1) E(X) = n \frac{M}{N} = 5 \frac{3}{40} = \frac{3}{8} = 0.375$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2) V(X) &= \left(\frac{N-n}{N-1} \right) \cdot n \cdot \frac{M}{N} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{M}{N} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{40-5}{40-1} \right) \cdot 5 \cdot \frac{3}{40} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{3}{40} \right) = 0.311298 \end{aligned}$$

The Negative Binomial Distribution

The *negative binomial rv* and distribution are based on an experiment satisfying the following four conditions:

1. The experiment consists of a sequence of independent trials.
2. Each trial can result in a success (S) or a failure (F).
3. The probability of success is constant from trial to trial, so $P(S \text{ on trial } i) = p$ for $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$
4. The experiment continues until a total of r successes have been observed, where r is a *specified positive integer*.


If X is the number of failures that precede the r -th success, then the probability distribution of X will be called the **negative binomial distribution**. [$nb(r, p)$]

The event $(X = x)$ is equivalent to $\{r-1 \text{ } S\text{'s in the first } (x+r-1) \text{ trials and an } S \text{ in the } (x+r)\text{th}\}$.

Computation of a Negative Binomial pmf

$$nb(x; r, p) = \binom{x+r-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^x, \quad x = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

The expected value and Variance of a Negative Binomial distribution

If $X \sim nb(r, p)$  (1) $E(X) = r(1-p)/p$ (2) $V(X) = r(1-p)/p^2$

Geometric Distribution:

When $r = 1$ in $nb(r, p)$ then the nb distribution reduces to geometric distribution.

Example:

Suppose that $p = P(\text{male birth}) = 0.5$. A parent wishes to have exactly two female children in their family. They will have children until this condition is fulfilled.

1. *What is the probability that the family has x male children?*

Let X be the number of Ms precede the 2nd F. \longrightarrow $X \sim nb(2, 0.5)$

The prob. that the family has x male children $= P(X=x)$

$$= nb(x; 2, 0.5), x=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

2. *What is the probability that the family has 4 children?*

$$= P(X = 2) = nb(2; 2, 0.5) = 0.1875$$

3. *What is the probability that the family has at most 4 children?*

$$\begin{aligned} &= P(X \leq 2) = P(X = 0) + P(X = 1) + P(X = 2) \\ &= nb(0; 2, 0.5) + nb(1; 2, 0.5) + nb(2; 2, 0.5) \\ &= 0.6875 \end{aligned}$$

4. *How many male children would you expect this family to have?*
How many children would you expect this family to have?

$$E(X) = r(1 - p)/p = 2(1 - 0.5)/0.5 = 2$$

$$2 + E(X) = 2 + 2 = 4$$

3.6 The Poisson Probability Distribution

A random variable X is said to have a **Poisson distribution** with parameter λ ($\lambda > 0$), if the pmf of X is

$$p(x; \lambda) = \frac{\lambda^x e^{-\lambda}}{x!}, \quad x = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

The Poisson Distribution as a Limit

Suppose that in the binomial pmf $b(x; n, p)$, we let $n \rightarrow \infty$ and $p \rightarrow 0$ in such a way that np approaches a value λ ($\lambda > 0$). Then

$$b(x; n, p) \rightarrow p(x; \lambda)$$

The expected value and Variance of a Poisson distribution

If X has a Poisson distribution with parameter λ , then

$$E(X) = V(X) = \lambda$$

Poisson Process

Assumptions:

1. There exists a parameter $\alpha > 0$ such that for any short time interval of length Δt , the probability that exactly one event is received is $\alpha \Delta t + o(\Delta t)$
2. The probability of more than one event during Δt is $o(\Delta t)$.
3. The number of events during the time interval Δt is independent of the number that occurred prior to this time interval.

Poisson Process

$P_k(t) = e^{-\alpha t} (\alpha t)^k / k!$, so that the number of pulses (events) during a time interval of length t is a Poisson rv with parameter αt . The expected number of pulses (events) during any such time interval is αt , so the expected number during a unit time interval is α .

Example:

Suppose that the number of typing errors per page has a Poisson distribution with average 6 typing errors.

(1) What is the probability that in a given page:

- (i) The number of typing errors will be 7?
- (ii) The number of typing errors will be at least 2?


Let X = number of typing errors per page. $\longrightarrow X \sim \text{Poisson}(6)$

$$\longrightarrow P(X = x) = p(x; 6) = \frac{6^x e^{-6}}{x!}, \quad x = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$(i) \quad P(X = 7) = p(7; 6) = \frac{6^7 e^{-6}}{7!} = 0.13768.$$

$$(ii) \quad P(X \geq 2) = 1 - P(X < 2) = 1 - [P(X = 0) + P(X = 1)] \\ = 1 - p(0; 6) - p(1; 6) = 0.982650$$

(2) What is the probability that in 2 pages there will be 10 typing errors?

Let X = number of typing errors in 2 pages.  $X \sim \text{Poisson}(12)$

$$P(X = 10) = p(10; 12) = \frac{12^{10} e^{-12}}{10!} = 0.1084.$$

(3) What is the probability that in a half page there will be no typing errors?

Let X = number of typing errors in a half page.  $X \sim \text{Poisson}(3)$

$$P(X = 0) = p(0; 3) = \frac{3^0 e^{-3}}{0!} = 0.0497871.$$